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MATTERS RELATED TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL, GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Applications from non-governmental organizations for consultative status

Note by the Director-General

Addendum

Provides information on the following non-governmental organization applying for consultative status with UNIDO: International Network for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (INSME).

Since the publication of document IDB.28/12, the above-mentioned application from a non-governmental organization (NGO) for consultative status, in accordance with Article 19.1 (b) of the Constitution of UNIDO, has been received. Information on the organization is circulated to the Board in the annex to the present document. More detailed information on the organization is available with the Secretariat.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

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Annex

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS APPLYING FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the present document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES (INSME)

Historical background

INSME was established in 2000 on the ideas and principles discussed at the first OECD ministerial conference on SMEs and globalization. It was formally founded under Italian law in 2004 in order to foster transnational cooperation and public-private partnership in the field of innovation and technology transfer to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Since adequate access to innovation is a key factor for enterprises to be competitive, INSME stimulates SMEs' innovation processes and competitiveness by promoting and strengthening innovation services and transnational technology transfer provided by intermediaries and their networks.

Statutes

Available

Structure of governing bodies and administration

- General assembly of official representatives
- Board
- Secretary General
- Auditors Committee

Activities related to the work of UNIDO

Through a wide range of initiatives and services, INSME acts as a facilitator and catalyst for cooperation between its members, promoting linkages and partnerships on a sectoral and thematic basis at an international and regional level. As an information hub and a multiplier of cross-border contacts and opportunities, INSME provides added value to its members in the following fields:

- Promotion: INSME increases the visibility and access to members' services and skills by offering tools and occasions to showcase activities, projects and programmes;
- Partnerships: It launches joint projects on a voluntary basis, creates new partnerships for business opportunities, participates directly in calls for tenders as a leader or partner organization and involves its members on a case-by-case basis;
- Transnational technology transfer: It provides on-line standard and customized services through its information hub, the INSME portal;
- Lobbying activities and advocacy: It supports the reputation and the role played by intermediaries in SME creation and economic development, and their recognition by Governments and international financing institutions;
- Know-how and staff exchange: INSME facilitates the exchange of expertise, professionals and good practices within its network. A number of online thematic working groups are already active;
- Studying SME innovation trends: It represents an observatory for mapping and monitoring SME innovation policies and financial instruments at national and international level, as well as good practices in this area in order to inspire the definition of new political guidelines.

Relations with the United Nations and other IGOs

UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe), UNESCAP (United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific), UNAPCTT (United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology), UNOPS and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Relations with NGOs

International Organisation for Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development (IKED), International Society for Professional Innovation Management (ISPIM), Latin American Technology Information Network (RITLA) and Centre for Innovation Research.

Membership

INSME membership is open to public and private bodies from any geographical area worldwide dealing with SME innovation and technology transfer issues. Three types of membership are offered:

- Full membership;
- Associate membership;
- Membership as observer.

The association welcomes applications from international organizations and international NGOs, intermediaries and their networks at subnational, national, regional or international level, as well as government departments and national/subnational institutes and agencies.

ISME members as of May 2004: International NGOs (see above), government departments, national/subnational institutes and intermediaries from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey.

Address of headquarters

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